Before the

Federal Communications Commission

Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:
Eliminating Regulatory Waste: One-Station Limits in LPFM and Ensure Equal Ownership Rights for All Nonprofits

GN Docket No. 25-133

Comments of the LPFM Advocacy Group (LPFM-AG)

The LPFM Advocacy Group (LPFM-AG) urges the Commission to eliminate outdated and inequitable ownership limits that prevent nonprofit educational institutions and community organizations from operating more than one LPFM station.

This is especially burdensome in mid-sized metropolitan areas like **Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, South Carolina**, where geographically distant cities function as a single radio market. Under current rules, local institutions like **Furman University, Wofford College, Southern Wesleyan University,** and **Greenville Technical College** may only operate one LPFM station in just one city—even though its campuses and students are spread across multiple communities. Meanwhile, NPR affiliated statewide services like **South Carolina Public Radio** can serve the entire region with a single 100,000-watt Class C full-service station. This creates a regulatory imbalance that disadvantages smaller local institutions with strong public service missions.

The inequity is codified in **47 CFR § 73.855(a)**, which currently states:

> *"No entity may own more than one LPFM station. However, Native American tribes may own up to two LPFM stations."*

While we respect the intent behind this exception, it has become **an exclusionary rule** that favors one specific group while denying the same opportunity to **other ethnic minorities**, **underserved rural communities**, **HBCUs**, **faith-based organizations**, and **nonprofit educational institutions** serving multiracial, diverse populations.

We firmly believe in *expanding* opportunities—not restricting them. But **ownership rules must apply equally to all qualified nonprofit applicants**, regardless of race, tribal affiliation, or political designation. Spectrum is a public resource. Public access to it should be fair, inclusive, and based on a broadcaster's **track record of service and local impact—not their identity group**.

This view is consistent with the intent of **President Trump's Executive Orders on deregulation and fairness**, which emphasize **merit-based governance** and the removal of outdated rules that benefit a narrow class at the expense of broader public opportunity.

We propose the following regulatory change:

> ✅ **Modify 47 CFR § 73.855(a)** to allow **any nonprofit educational LPFM licensee** to own **up to three LPFM stations**, regardless of tribal status.

Furthermore, we support proposals that would allow nonprofit LPFM licensees to also hold additional types of broadcast licenses, such as **LPTV and NCE-FM** stations. LPFM licensees are already permitted to own FM translator stations, yet, ownership restrictions should simply adopt existing NCE-FM ownership rules. Expanding this flexibility to include **low-power television (LPTV),** additional **FM translators** or noncommercial educational **NCE-FM** services would help strengthen community-based media ecosystems—**but only if such rights are extended equally to *all* qualified nonprofits**.

Ownership flexibility can be a powerful tool for local media development—but it must be **merit-based, not identity-based**. A rule that gives one ethnic or political group the exclusive right to build multi-service media networks while denying that opportunity to others is not equitable—and it is inconsistent with both the Communications Act and the deregulatory goals of this proceeding.

Conclusion: Fair Access for All Nonprofits

We urge the Commission to revise its LPFM ownership policies to reflect today's realities and the clear deregulatory mandate of this proceeding. Specifically:

- ✅ **Amend 47 CFR § 73.855(a)** to allow **up to three LPFM licenses per nonprofit entity**;
- ✅ Extend ownership parity to all nonprofit groups, not just Tribes;
- ✅ Permit nonprofit LPFM licensees to co-own **LPTV, NCE** or other additional secondary broadcast services (remove current LPFM restrictions and make NCE-FM **FM Translator** ownership rules the same for LPFM), as long as public service standards are met;
- ✅ Uphold **equal opportunity and merit-based access to spectrum**, consistent with Executive Orders 14192 and 14219.

This reform would eliminate an unnecessary structural barrier, improve public access to local spectrum, and ensure that **LPFM rules serve *all Americans* equally.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Solomon
LPFM Advocacy Group (LPFM-AG)
PO Box 25222
Greenville, SC 29616
April 11, 2025